



Freedom of Information Request Reference N°: FOI 003934-19 and 004027-19

I write in connection with your request for information received by Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies on 8 November 2019 which you sought access to the following information:

1. *“How many rape-flagged crimes occurred in September 2019 in your jurisdiction?”*
2. *How many rape-flagged cases in September 2019 were subject to digital disclosures of mobile phone data in your jurisdiction?*
3. *How many other alleged sexual offences (not rape-flagged) in September 2019 were subject to digital disclosures of mobile phone data in your jurisdiction?*
4. *How many digital disclosures of mobile phone data for all other crime types (not rape flagged or sexual offences) took place in September 2019 in your jurisdiction?*
5. *How many offences recorded as rape were investigated in the month of July 2019 in your jurisdiction? How many digital extractions of complainant mobile phone data took place in respect of offences recorded as rape in July 2019?*
6. *How many digital extractions of complainant mobile phone data took place in July 2019 for all offences excluding the offence of rape. This does not have to be broken down by individual crime type (although if you have that data in an easily retrievable format it would be appreciated if you could include it as a secondary element).”*

Response to your Request

The response provided below is correct as of 4 November 2019

Suffolk and Norfolk Constabularies have considered your request for information and the response is below.

The Constabularies do not record the number of occasions offences have been the subject of digital extraction or disclosure in a central location. Although the Constabularies Digital Forensics Unit will be able to ascertain information for individual cases, there is no means to complete a bulk data extraction for the information. This would require manually reviewing hundreds of submission forms for this detail, however is something the Constabularies hope will be available in the future.

At this time, in order to extract the data would require a review of each crime recorded on the crime system for the months of July and September 2019 and cross reference those to establish whether any digital downloads or disclosures were made.

Considering rape offences alone, during the months of July and September 2019, there were a total of 376 rape offences recorded in Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies. Considering a search of 5 minutes per offence it would take in excess of 31 hours for rape offences alone. It would therefore take a considerable amount of time to extract the data to answer all parts of the request.

In relation to your request for information and in accordance with Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), this response serves as a formal notification of refusal for your request. The Constabularies do not hold, for the purposes of FOIA, all of the information you require in a retrievable format.

It is estimated that to attempt to retrieve all of the information you require would take a considerable amount of retrieval time, exceeding the appropriate limit for dealing with Freedom of Information requests in terms of costs and therefore, Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 applies.

Section 12(1) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 states that a Public Authority is not obliged to: "...comply with a request for information if the authority estimates that the cost of complying with the request would exceed the appropriate limit." The Freedom of Information (Appropriate Limit and Fees) Regulations, defines the 'appropriate limit' for the Constabularies as £450 and specifies that this sum equates to 18 hours work per force at a standard rate of £25 per hour. This equates to 36 hours of work, or £900, for joint responses.

In accordance with Section 17(5) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter serves as a refusal notice for this part of your request.

By requesting all information your request is too broad to be complied with within the limit imposed on Freedom of Information requests.

Although excess cost removes the Force's obligations under the Freedom of Information Act, as a gesture of goodwill, I have supplied information, relative to your request, retrieved or available before it was realised that the fees limit would be exceeded. I trust this is helpful, but it does not affect our legal right to rely on the fees regulations for the remainder of your request.

The tables provided below confirm the total number of rape offences recorded by the Constabularies during July and September 2019.

Police forces in the United Kingdom are routinely required to provide crime statistics to government bodies and the recording criteria is set nationally. However, the systems used for recording these figures are not generic, nor are the procedures used locally in capturing the crime data. It should be noted that for these reasons this force's response to your questions should not be used for comparison purposes with any other response you may

receive.

Norfolk	July	September
Rape of a Female Aged 16 And Over	70	61
Rape of a Female Child Under 13	11	7
Rape of a Female Child Under 16	12	8
Rape of a Male Aged 16 And Over	4	4
Rape of a Male Child Under 13	-	6
Rape of a Male Child Under 16	2	2
Grand Total	99	88

Suffolk	July	September
Rape of a Female Aged 16 And Over	57	80
Rape of a Female Child Under 13	6	1
Rape of a Female Child Under 16	4	13
Rape of a Male Aged 16 And Over	8	6
Rape of a Male Child Under 13	9	3
Rape of a Male Child Under 16	1	1
Grand Total	85	104

Should you have any further queries concerning this request, please contact Clair Pack, FOI Decision Maker, quoting the reference number shown above.

A full copy of the Freedom of Information Act (2000) can be viewed on the 'Office of Public Sector Information' web-site;
<http://www.opsi.gov.uk/>

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies are not responsible for the content, or the reliability, of the website referenced. The Constabulary cannot guarantee that this link will work all of the time, and we have no control over the availability of the linked pages.

Your Right to Request a Review of Decisions Made Under the Terms of the
Freedom of Information Act (2000).

If you are unhappy with how your request has been handled, or if you think the decision is incorrect, you have the right to ask the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary to review their decision.

Ask Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies to look at the decision again.

If you are dissatisfied with the decision made by Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies under the Freedom of Information Act (2000), regarding access to information, you must notify the Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary that you are requesting a review within 20 days of the date of its response to your Freedom of Information request. Requests for a review should be made in writing and addressed to:

*Freedom of Information Decision Maker
Information Management Department
Suffolk Constabulary
Police Headquarters
Martlesham Heath
Ipswich
Suffolk
IP5 3QS
OR
Email: information@suffolk.pnn.police.uk*

In all possible circumstances Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary will aim to respond to your request for us to look at our decision again within 40 working days of receipt of your request for an internal review.

The Information Commissioner.

After lodging a request for a review with Norfolk and Suffolk Constabulary, if you are still dissatisfied with the decision, you can apply to the Information Commissioner for a decision on whether the request for information has been dealt with in accordance with the requirements of the Act.

For information on how to make application to the Information Commissioner please visit their website at www.ico.org.uk or contact them at the address shown below:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Telephone: 01625 545 700